

All Class "A" and most Class "B" systems must have a Sanitary Survey every 5 years (unless 5 coliform tests are taken monthly). All Class "B" systems need an initial survey by June 29, 1999. PWSs that do not have the survey performed must issue a public notice to their customers of the violation.

Northern Flows

DW/WW Program Directory

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For information about up-and-coming training go to:
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/water>

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Melanie Glatt	Environmental Tech.	376-5038

KETCHIKAN FIELD OFFICE

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Northern Flows



Alaska's Drinking Water & Wastewater Program Newsletter

Issue 2 • Spring 1999

Message from the Manager

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Program has had a busy Spring season with proposed Drinking Water Regulation revisions, new program development activities, many staff changes, and a hectic and unpredictable legislative session. During the next several months, we will continue to review our proposed regulation revisions and work with the Department of Law towards a final Drinking Water Regulations adoption package. Also, during the next several months, we plan to increase our Compliance Assistance efforts with public water system (PWS) owners and

operators as they prepare their first Consumer Confidence Reports.

As both a state public health and regulatory program, we try to be the "buffer" between the federal government and you. It's a difficult process to develop state regulations that meet federal guidelines as well as allow for our unique geographic, climatologic, and cultural diversity. There are times it may not seem as though we are "getting it right"; however, we have a commitment to make the process work. Please feel free to contact me with your concerns or suggestions so we can make this process work as best as possible.

Thank you,

James Weise, DGS

Drinking Water & Wastewater Program Manager

New Domestic Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Regulations

On April 1st 1999, ADEC adopted new wastewater treatment and disposal regulations that comprehensively reorganized the text with few technical changes. A few highlights are:

Oversight by an engineer or prior plan approval by the Department is no longer required for certified installers to construct conventional on-site wastewater systems designed for 500 gallons per day or less, serving small commercial facilities.

As recommended by the Alaska Board of Registration for Engineers and Architects, we now use the term "record drawings" in lieu of "asbuilts." Engineers and certified installers now have 90 days to submit record information following project completion.

The On-Site Installer's Manual, a reference for conventional on-site septic system installation, was also revised to reflect regulation changes.

The new regulations and On-Site Installer's Manual are available at our web site:

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/water>

"Open house workshops" were held throughout the state to find out what technical changes Alaskans would like made in the next phase of regulation revisions. A technical workgroup of volunteers working in the wastewater field, but not for ADEC, will start meeting this summer. The work group will evaluate comments and concerns received from the public, and provide recommendations for regulation revisions to ADEC.

Through these avenues we hope to create comprehensive, technical changes that more effectively meet Alaskans' needs. For more information call David Johnson at (907) 262-5210 (ext. 238).

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Certified Installer Program

The Certified Installer Program, a popular on-site wastewater system installation option, was re-established in 1997. It allows contractors to become certified to install conventional (domestic) septic systems serving single family and duplex residences without the oversight of an engineer or prior


Individuals cannot install their own systems without prior ADEC approval. plan approval by the ADEC. Under current regulations, the only people who

may install conventional septic systems without prior ADEC approval are certified installers, registered engineers, or approved homeowners (with restrictions). Individuals cannot install their own systems without prior ADEC approval.


To become a certified installer, you must: 1) Have the correct contractor's license or work under a contractor who does; 2) Attend ADEC's training class; 3) Pass an examination that covers the proper installation of on-site systems; and 4) Pay an annual certification fee to cover the cost of administering the program.

To become an approved homeowner installer, you must only attend the training course lecture. An approved homeowner installer is limited to installing one conventional on-site septic system within one year of taking the training course.

The training program consists of a

four-hour lecture on the 1998 "On-Site Wastewater Installer's Manual," followed by a written examination in the afternoon. We have just offered a series of training workshops throughout the state. Future training session dates have not been decided yet. We post training opportunities on our web site at: 

The 1999 regulation revisions expanded the certified installer's role. They can now install conventional on-site systems for small, one-building businesses that produce no more than 500 gallons of domestic wastewater per day.

People interested in attending installer training must pre-register with their local ADEC Office, and pay a \$65 training fee. For information about up-coming training sessions call David Johnson at (907) 262-5210 ext. 238, or E-mail at: 

Is your PWS's sanitary survey due?

Please check your mailing label and arrange a survey if it's due now. A list of approved surveyors is enclosed.

[Http://www.state.ak.us/dec/delh/water](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/delh/water)

Djohnson@environ.state.ak.us

Capacity Development

Technical, Financial,

Will it affect my water system?

Yes, if you own or operate an existing Class "A" PWS. It will also affect you if you plan to extend water lines, increase storage, and/or change or

States and water systems work together to ensure that technical, financial, and capacity needed to provide safe drinking

modify treatment of an existing water system to serve additional customers, or if you operate a water system that hasn't received ADEC approval to operate (no PWS identification number or certificate).

Capacity development issues will also affect developers who are planning new Class "A" PWSs.

What is technical, financial, and managerial capacity?

Technical capacity includes the physical infrastructure or hardware of the water system; the adequacy of the source water, treatment, storage, and distribution; and the ability of water system staff to properly operate and maintain the system.

Financial capacity includes financial resources of a PWS, revenue sufficiency, credit worthiness, and fiscal controls.

Managerial capacity means the management structure of a PWS, including ownership accountability, staffing, organization, and effective communication links to customers, ADEC, and other regulatory agencies.

Development:

and Managerial

Basics of the New Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

What to expect!

Capacity development is an important part of the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act's focus on

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prevention. States and water systems will work together to ensure that systems have the technical, financial, and managerial capacity needed to consistently provide safe drinking water.

Capacity development has two parts: 1) A state program in place by Oct. 1, 1999, to ensure that new Class "A" PWSs demonstrate their capacity to provide water to the public, and 2) A state strategy by Oct. 1, 2001, to assist existing Class "A" water systems to acquire and maintain technical, financial, and managerial capacity.

You can read the regulatory requirements in the proposed State Drinking Water Regulations. ADEC has formed a Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) to guide the development of Alaska's Capacity Development Strategy. The meeting notes and schedule for future CAB meetings will be found on our homepage: →

If you have any questions or are interested in serving on the CAB, please call Keven Kleweno (907) 269-7696.

Who's Affected: Water systems nationwide that serve 25 year-round residents or have 15 service connections. Check your mailing label for the code "*CWS*" (Community Water System) to see if your system must prepare a report.

Why: Annual drinking water quality reports are required so customers can make practical, knowledgeable decisions about their health and their environment.

Templates

Available: 1) The EPA has a free template and guidance manual available. Call the EPA hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or check: → 2) National Rural Water Association sells a template for \$1. Call 1-580-252-0629 for a copy of the 3rd quarter 1998 Rural Water Magazine [this template mistakenly states that contaminants not detected may be listed in the same table as contaminants found. The EPA requires that any contaminants detected be listed alone in a single table. Reporting nondetects in another table is optional.] 3) AWWA has an interactive template for \$75 at: →

Date Due: Distribute the CCR to customers (and ADEC) by October 19, 1999 or sooner. A certification of mailing must then be sent to the Drinking Water

Program; 555 Cordova Street; Anchorage, AK 99501 within 3 months of the CCR distribution.

Mailing Waiver: ADEC is requesting that the Governor waive mailing of the report for small systems. If such a waiver becomes

Please put your PWS ID # on laboratory reporting forms, operator reports, and correspondence with ADEC

available, you will be notified in a future newsletter. Even if a waiver for "mass mailing" is granted, customers would still need to be notified of the availability of the CCR and reports would still have to be prepared and mailed to ADEC.

Getting started: Obtain a template and the EPA guidance manual. Gather your laboratory and operator data from 1998. If a contaminant was not tested for in 1998, you will also need the most recent test results from 1994-1997. Also, get a list of your water system's 1998 violations from your drinking water specialist or visit the Envirofacts web page: →

Help: The Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 is staffed from 5 am to 1:30 pm Alaska Time. The ADEC contact for the Consumer Confidence Report Rule is Susan Randlett, (907) 269-3075.

[Http://www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/water](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/water)

[Http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html)

[Http://www.CCRbuilder.com](http://www.CCRbuilder.com)

[Http://www.epa.gov/9966/envirodcd/owa/sdw_form.create_page?state_abbr=AK](http://www.epa.gov/9966/envirodcd/owa/sdw_form.create_page?state_abbr=AK)